

Superfund Cooperative Agreement (V96048302)

Progress Report

July 2013 – September 2013

Site Name: Upper Columbia River - Cooperative Agreement Funding Award, Teck Cominco/EPA Contract Settlement

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EPA Contact: Dr. Laura Buelow - Region 10 RPM

Background

On June 2, 2006, the EPA and Teck Cominco (TCM) entered into a formal contract, (“Settlement Agreement”), for TCM to complete a Superfund RI/FS of the Upper Columbia River site (UCR). Integral to the Settlement Agreement is a Statement of Work, referred to as “Exhibit A” in the contract. Section XIII Costs, subpart 48 of the Settlement Agreement establishes funding by TCM to the State of Washington and others for oversight participation in the RI/FS process. The current Cooperative Agreement “grant” (V-96048302), runs from 3/1/11 through 6/30/15. The agreement serves as the EPA/Ecology administrative construct for distributing Teck funding to the state.

1a. Accomplishments

Project Management and Implementation

Routine communications were maintained with the EPA project team and RPM. Weekly project manager meetings performed. Coordination with other state agencies continues, but was generally quite during the period, including Department of Health and Department of Fish and Wildlife.

In August, Ecology project staff assisted and participated in a full day site tour for Region 10 CERCLA management and counsel.

Technical and Regulatory Remedial Action Participation

Continued support of EPA planning for the Young American mill discharge point and Bossburg town site & shoreline sampling planning associated with data quality objectives. During the quarter staff participated in a multi-day RI technical meeting in Kettle Falls, covering various topics. Staff also provided a detailed explanation and data transfer on the results of the Ecology upland soil sampling program. The State gained the support and participation of EPA project team to prepare for a residential soil testing program. Work will occur within the next year, along the upper Columbia River Valley and adjacent areas potentially impacted. State also coordinated on the advancement of rapid public outreach.

In September, an initial Teck draft upland soil sampling QAPP was delivered. Technical review has begun.

In addition to the upland topic, final negotiations and planning for the Phase 2 sediment sampling in the river was a major issue during the quarter and subject of focus. Various, cultural, permit, and technical points were being resolved in order to succeed at beginning actual field work. That work began by the end of September. Ecology is assisting in oversight monitoring.

Community Relations

In August (20th), Ecology and EPA held a joint public meeting in Northport. Ecology provided outreach facilitation services. The meeting was timely and well received. It focused on Ecology's upland soil results near the Border and EPA planning for residential screening of soils. Extensive State coordination with the Northeast Tri-County Health District and local officials also occurred.

Ecology continues routine ongoing association with the Lake Roosevelt Forum (LRF) – activity—a LRF conference is planned for November. Staff also maintains coordination with local government and outreach to interested citizens as needed. Communication with the Citizens for a Clean Columbia (CCC) continued during the period.

1b. Problems and Corrective Actions

Resolution of concerns surrounding a Teck Sediment QAPP dispute and required permits persisted. Advised on certain technical aspects.

2.a. Is the project on schedule?

The schedule is not managed by Ecology.

b. What percentage of the project is complete?

Estimated progress on the RI and FS remains at roughly at 25 percent.

3.a. Are the project expenditures to date as budgeted?

Expenditure predictions remain generally as anticipated. At about the 2.5 year mark of a 4.25 year budget cycle (~59% into the grant cycle), under the grant structure that initiated in March of 2011 and extends through June 2015, approximately 50% of the \$466,323 budget is expended.

b. Discuss Discrepancies

N/A.

4a. How much time is needed to complete the project?

This is an EPA lead project. RI/FS Work Plan schedule updates currently projects completion around 2018, or later. Upland soil sampling is the next major field effort which will influence Remedial Investigation progress. Relevant to schedule, discussions amongst Participating Parties are scheduled in the fall to explore potential strategies to accelerate completion of the entire CERCLA-like process.

b. What amount of funding is needed to complete the project?

Ecology continues to anticipate that all annual funds in this current ~4 year cooperative agreement, or more, will be spent if the RI progresses as planned.

5. Other – N/A

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